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MORE THAN SHORT STORIES {page 12}

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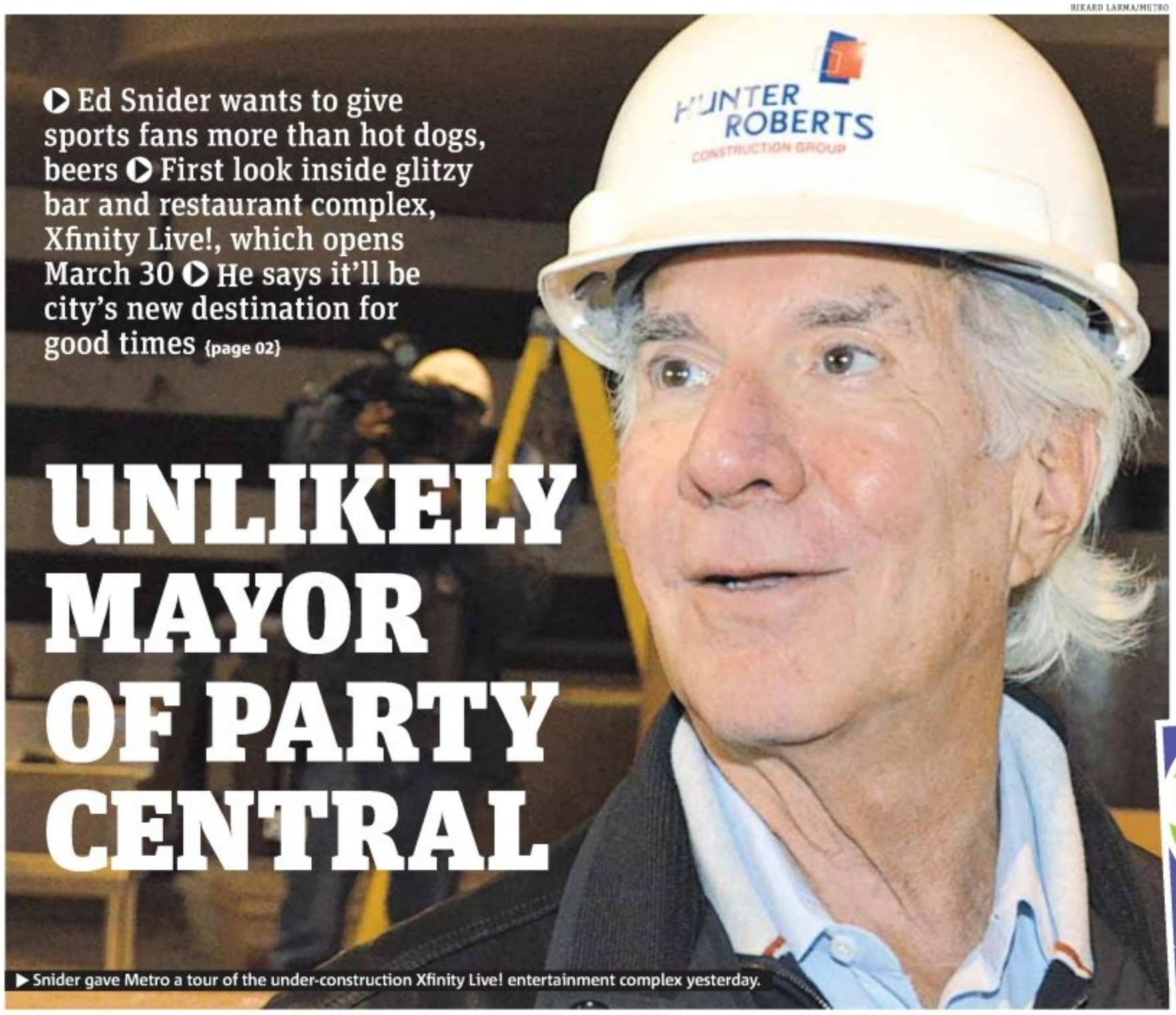
RICARD LARMA/METRO



▶ Snider gave Metro a tour of the under-construction Xfinity Live! entertainment complex yesterday.

UNLIKELY MAYOR OF PARTY CENTRAL

▶ Ed Snider wants to give sports fans more than hot dogs, beers ▶ First look inside glitzy bar and restaurant complex, Xfinity Live!, which opens March 30 ▶ He says it'll be city's new destination for good times {page 02}

News

Philly, where ritual sacrifice is 'common'

▶ More headless chickens found in NE Philly ▶ Animal rescue official says the creepy discovery is not rare {page 02}

Would you pull Angelina's leg?

See why 'Descendants' writer and 'Community' dean had the guts to do it {page 10}

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LIVE IT.

Ed Snider, party animal

Well-liked Flyers owner excited about next month's grand opening of Xfinity Live! Expects more than sports fans to come to new hangout

If you would prefer to eat something other than hot dogs and beer at the ballpark, Comcast-Spectacor CEO Ed Snider suggests you try the restaurants at Xfinity Live!, which will open to the public March 30. Ticket holders to upcoming Bruce Springsteen concerts will have exclusive access March 28-29.

Snider said he is not worried about filling Xfinity Live!, which will be open seven days a week from 11 to 2 a.m. and that he thinks the sports complex's newest addition will be a destination for more than game ticket holders.

"People like to be around the action even if they are not coming to the games. I am going to be here when I am not at hockey games," he said.

As you would expect from someone as successful as Snider, he fully researched the potential of Xfinity Live!, which was initially called Philly Live! before Xfinity bought the naming rights.

He said, "Eight million people visit these stadiums each year. The Real Sports Bar and Grill attached to the arenas in Toronto [Canada] was voted the No. 1 sports bar in America by ESPN viewers in 2010. Before opening, they had predicted they would get X [number of patrons] before and after the game and less during the game. To their surprise, they draw just as many people during the game."

Drivers, who are tired of paying $15 to $20 for valet parking in the city, will be delighted to discover Xfinity Live's policy of free parking one hour after the last stadium event begins. On the rare night that there is no event, parking will be free all night.

LAURA GOLDMAN
letters@metro.us

Centerpiece is indoor TV

If successful, Philadelphians can expect Xfinity Live! to expand.

"After the Spectrum was torn down, we were originally going to build a 300,000-square-foot complex. The bad economy affected our plans. We started with 55,000 square feet," said Snider. "The plans for additions are already on the drawing board but nothing is definitive."

The initial phase's piece de resistance is the NBC Sports Arena, which will offer a stadiumlike viewing experience while dining. The bar's centerpiece is a 32-foot LED HD television screen. South Dakota-based Daktronics installed it as well as the screens at Citizens Bank Park and Lincoln Financial Field.

BIKARD LAIMA/METRO

▶ Construction of the NBC Sports Arena bar inside the complex is far from complete.

Quoted

"On Thursday nights, DJ's will be spinning from a specially constructed booth. Every Saturday night, there will be local and regionally known bands playing."
BOB JOHNSON, VICE PRESIDENT OF MARKETING FOR XFINITY LIVE!

"People like to be around the action even if they are not coming to the games. I am going to be here when I am not at hockey games." SNIDER

In the news

Man critical after being shot by cop

An officer opened fire on a man Sunday night, leaving him in critical but stable condition during a confrontation in Fishtown. Police responded to the 200 block of East Wildey Street shortly before 11:45 p.m. for reports of a man armed with a large knife. When they arrived, police said the unidentified man approached them with the weapon.
METRO/AW

In the news

Fox 29 bowled over

Fox 29 is refraining from running a video showing Mayor Michael Nutter getting touchy-feely with an attractive blonde woman at popular night spot Lucky Strikes Lanes & Lounge, according to the Daily News' Dan Gross. After Fox 29's news director Steve Schwaid met with the mayor, Gross' source said he ordered the segment axed.

Pew report today polls Philly's attitude on taxes

PHILADELPHIA. A report from the Philadelphia Research Initiative will be released this morning that reveals residents' attitudes toward the overall local tax burden and the value of the services they receive.

The report also includes whether those polled would choose more services with higher taxes or fewer services with lower taxes and how they feel about commercial advertising on municipal property and taxing sugary drinks.

The findings come a couple weeks after a PRI poll that showed residents' feelings about Mayor Michael Nutter and his job performance in the aftermath of his election to a second term. METRO/BXM

▶ Happy with your taxes?

Puppy litter rescued in alleged dog fighting ring

KENSINGTON. Dogs were rescued from a breeding and dog fighting operation Sunday, officials from the Pennsylvania SPCA said in a release.

They were found in a home on the 3300 block of H Street, allegedly kept in unsanitary conditions and suffering from severe neglect and a lack of veterinary treatment, according to the SPCA. Rasheed Holland, 36, is charged with animals used in fighting and related offenses. METRO/AW

12 Dogs, including nine puppies, rescued from an alleged dog fighting operation in Kensington this week, according to animal shelter officials.

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Animal sacrifice not rare

Beheaded chickens in NE Philly cemetery part of 'common' trend, animal shelter official said Other cultlike sacrifices have been found in past month

A bag containing two decapitated chicken carcasses was found in a Northeast Philadelphia cemetery Sunday afternoon.

The discovery was made on the 600 block of Disston Street in Lawndale. Police said they called in SPCA officers, who concluded that the remains did not seem suspicious and were likely part of a ritual animal sacrifice.

"We did go out there to see if we could find any information that would lead us to who put them there," Wendy Marano of the Pennsylvania SPCA said. "They could be charged with illegal dumping, but it's not illegal to humanely sacrifice an animal as part of a religious ritual."

She said that the law, which allows for animals to be sacrificed during the practice of religion provided they are killed swiftly, has been on the books since a 1992 court ruling. "We actually get quite a few animal mutilations, this isn't the first. We've had several already this year," Marano said, going so far as to call the occurrence "common."

"If people are going to sacrifice animals during religious ceremonies, even if it's legal, the practitioners should be disposing of them properly."
WENDY MARANO

A man walking his dog a month ago in Pennypack Park stumbled on boxes and bags containing a headless goat, chicken and rooster parts. Police executing a drug-related search warrant in a Chester County home last Monday found a trove of what appeared to be canine skulls and vertebrae — some of them gilded — and chicken parts strung up from a backyard tree.

Animal sacrifice is a part of many forms of Voodoo, some occult religions, and Santeria, which hails from the Caribbean, Marano said.

"We do get a lot of calls from people who stumble across these things and it certainly is very disturbing to people who are not practitioners of that religion — it's disturbing to us as the Pennsylvania SPCA," she said. "But we ... have to carry out the law as it is written regardless of our personal feelings."

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

▶ Fascinating oddities at Harry's Occult Shop can be found on South Street, but nothing that relates to animal sacrifices.

Inside the occult

Here's some insight from some local Voodoo experts and practitioners about some practices that do occasionally include animal sacrifices:

- A woman at a local occult shop said that animal sacrifice is not performed in African-based religions such as Santeria and Voodoo because, historically, the blood spilled would have attracted predatory animals in the religions' home countries.
- A woman at a respected Haitian Voodoo temple that also certifies priests and priestesses in Santeria and other African-based religions confirmed on the phone that ritual animal sacrifice is, in fact, a part of those religions.
- She said that the sacrifices require training and have policies and procedures for each step, including humane killing and ethical disposal of remains, so they are not likely to be found in a public place.

ALEX WIGGLESWORTH
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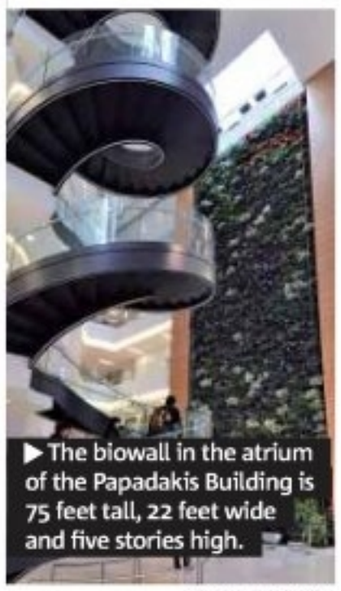

▶ The biowall in the atrium of the Papadakis Building is 75 feet tall, 22 feet wide and five stories high.

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

The $69 million addition to Drexel University's campus that opened last September at 33rd and Chestnut streets honors the university's former president, Constantine Papadakis, the building's namesake. But the science facility also features something totally unique to college campus: a biowall.

METRO

'Berenstain Bears' author dies in Philly

Jan Berenstain, who along with her husband Stan created the popular children's books about the family of lovable "Berenstain Bears," has died in Philadelphia, her publisher said on Monday, after suffering a stroke late last week. She was 88.

"We are all deeply saddened to share with you the news that Jan Berenstain, surviving member of one of the greatest teams in all children's literature — Stan and Jan Berenstain — passed away last Friday," publisher Random House said in a statement.

Stan Berenstain died in 2005 at age 82. The couple was longtime residents of Solebury, the Bucks County community that surrounds New Hope.

The Berenstains met in art school, married in 1946 and were inspired to write their first "Berenstain's Baby Book" as young adults raising their own two sons and dealing with new questions of caring for infants and toddlers.

Their publisher said Jan and Stan were the perfect collaborators: he was outgoing and gregarious, and she was the quiet and steady force who was always by his side. Both showed a flair for and love of drawing and storytelling from their earliest years.

Stan and Jan were married after World War II and began careers as a magazine cartoonist team. They published in The Saturday Evening Post, Colliers Magazine, McCall's, Good Housekeeping and many more family-oriented publications, focusing on humor about children and parents.

They had two sons, born in 1948 and 1951, who loved Dr. Seuss books. The kids' appreciation of Theodor Seuss Geisel's tales inspired the Berenstains to try their own hand at children's stories.

Geisel quickly became of fan of theirs and, as editor and publisher of Random House, released the Berenstains' first book.

Until the late 1980s, Stan and Jan continued working as magazine cartoonists and on children's books. Their son Mike joined the family business that continues to run today, keeping to the same formula of providing helpful family hints and good old-fashioned common sense. REUTERS

▶ Jan Berenstain

Helped both parents, kids

Their first "Bears" book, "The Big Honey Hunt," was published in 1962 — and from it sprang a publishing sensation printed around the world in some 23 languages. More than 250 million copies have been sold, and the book series has spawned TV shows, dolls, toys, games and computer software.

The stories of Mama Bear, Papa Bear, Brother Bear and Sister Bear, with titles such as "The Berenstain Bears: New Baby" and "The Berenstain Bears: Messy Room" deal with everyday dilemmas and help answer questions new parents and children face.

"The books are as helpful to adults in their parenting years as they are to kids," Kate Kilmo, publisher of Random House/Golden Books for Young Readers, told Reuters.

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WikiLeaks sharing mails from global security firm

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Julian Assange founded whistleblowing website WikiLeaks.

The anti-secrecy group WikiLeaks yesterday began publishing more than five million e-mails from a U.S.-based global security analysis company that has been likened to a shadow CIA.

The e-mails, snatched by hackers, could unmask sensitive sources and throw light on the murky world of intelligence-gathering by the company known as Stratfor, which counts Fortune 500 companies among its subscribers.

Stratfor in a statement said the release of its stolen e-mails was an attempt to silence and intimidate it.

It said it would not be cowed under the leadership of George Friedman, Stratfor's founder and chief executive officer. It said Friedman had not resigned as CEO, contrary to a bogus e-mail circulating on the Internet.

REUTERS

Gas jumps to $3.69 a gallon on Iran jitters

The world's leading economies have said Sunday they are "alert to the risks of higher oil prices" and discussed at length the impact that sanctions on Iran will have on crude supplies and global growth.

Finance ministers and central bankers from the Group of 20 said in a statement, after two days of talks, that they welcomed a commitment from producer countries to ensure oil supplies.

Higher prices at the gas pump could undercut the U.S. economic recovery.

REUTERS

GETTY IMAGES

▶ High prices at the pump

News in brief

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Chardon High School

One dead in Ohio school shooting

CHARDON, OHIO. A student opened fire with a handgun in the cafeteria of an Ohio high school near Cleveland yesterday, fatally wounding one student and shooting four others before a teacher chased him from the building and he gave himself up, authorities said.

Four boys and one girl had been hospitalized after the 7:30 a.m. shooting at Chardon High School that sent students fleeing in panic. The suspect, a male youth, was in custody, police said.

One student died at the hospital. He was identified as Daniel Parmentor, 17.

REUTERS

More cruise woe: Costa ship adrift

A Carnival Corp. cruise liner carrying more than 1,000 people remained adrift off the Seychelles after a fire shut down its engines, six weeks after at least 25 people died in an accident aboard a sister ship, the Costa Concordia.

No one was injured in the fire on the Costa Allegra, the Miami-based company's Italian unit, Costa Crociere SpA said in an e-mailed statement today. A general emergency alarm was declared as a precautionary measure and passengers were asked to assemble in muster areas, the company said. The fire was extinguished and didn't spread to other parts of the cruise liner. **BLOOMBERG**

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Is Obamacare a secret capitalist plot?

Metropolitik

MICHAEL J. FROSCH

SPECIAL GUEST COLUMNIST

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With a politically charged Supreme Court review this summer, we can expect a renewed frenzy over Obamacare. Like the dark prince, Beelzebub, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is a creature known by many names. And while there is much about the polarizing new law and its enactment process that deserves criticism, many of the most important and interesting parts of the law remain poorly understood.

The exchange system — the network of state-administered markets that the act creates — is the central component of Obamacare, and it provides surprising insight into the law's approach to state rights, consumer choice and regulated markets.

The exchange system is like an imaginary supermarket that only sells health insurance. To be sold on the exchange, an insurance plan must clearly display its "nutritional facts" to make comparison shopping easier. Each plan must also abide by basic quality standards designed to ensure that every plan sold on the exchange provides an adequate range of coverage for the price. For instance, plans on the exchange must spend at least 80 percent of premiums on health care, instead of things like executive pay, marketing or corporate jets. The exchange excludes plans that deny coverage for pre-existing conditions and puts limits on plans that try to charge more for riskier customers.

COMSTOCK

▶ Is that a pre-existing condition?

In addition to federal regulation, each state can adjust the rules of its own exchange and offer a state-level "public option" to compete on the exchange. With a federal blessing, states can even band together to create regional exchanges. Under the Act, a state can opt out of the exchange system entirely, if it can create an alternative health insurance program that achieves equal or better coverage for the same cost.

But why would any self-respecting insurance company want to play by these new rules and participate in the exchanges? Because only plans on the exchange are eligible to receive the new federal health insurance subsidies.

For those who do not receive coverage through their employer and spend more than 10 percent of their income on health care costs, Obamacare provides a tax credit sufficient to bring those costs below 10 percent — provided one's health insurance is purchased on the exchange. By 2019, $113 billion in subsidies will be up for grabs each year on the exchanges, according to CBO estimates. Only by competing with the other plans on the exchange can insurance companies hope to get their hands on those juicy federal dollars.

The exchange system is a true capitalist's solution to the health insurance problem. It creates a regulated marketplace where for-profit, nonprofit and public insurance providers alike compete on the merits for customers who can easily compare the costs and benefits of each plan. And the exchange system gives states the flexibility to experiment with alternatives, while challenging them to compete with one another.

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3. Repent ye; now be of full humbling; all peoples shall be humbled in full way; as I send full judgments.
4. Now repent, so I may own and bless all who come unto me; even to be my people of Zion. Amen.

We, the undersigned, testify these are verily the word of God, Jesus Christ, of holy way of telling all of the people on earth of His soon coming; and to repent, and be prepared. Amen.

Vaughan E. Taylor
Patriarch in the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Nathan C. Jessop
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A sweet new course at Temple

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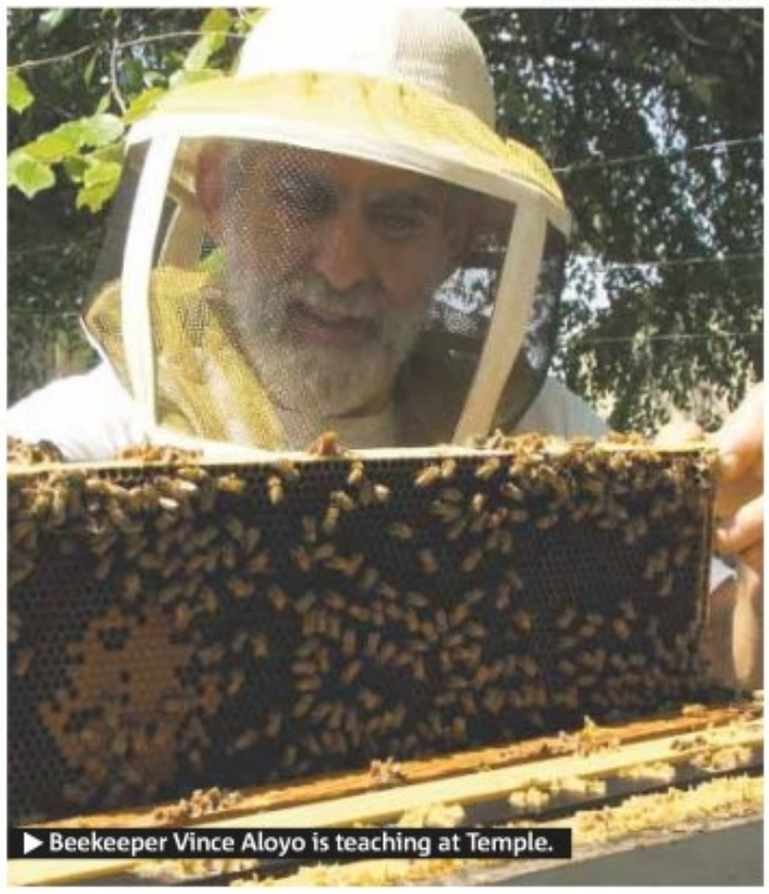


▶ Beekeeper Vince Aloyo is teaching at Temple.

◗ The university's noncredit beekeeping class covers everything from colony building to avoiding a sting ◗ Other outdoor course offerings

Turns out your mom was right: That buzzing little honeybee is a lot more scared of you than you are of it.

"Honeybees lose their life when they sting, so they're not particularly anxious to do that. Stay calm around them, and they won't sting you — probably," says expert apiarist Vincent Aloyo, who's been beekeeping since 1966.

Aloyo is teaching a course in beekeeping through Temple University's noncredit program. The class, which starts tomorrow evening, is held at the school's Ambler campus, where Aloyo keeps three beehives in the on-site arboretum.

Students will have an opportunity to get hands on with the hives — though not right away. First they'll learn where to get bees, what equipment to buy, how to maintain a new colony and, of course, how to avoid getting covered in stings (use smoke to distract the "guard bees"). Aspiring backyard beekeepers will leave the course with the know-how to start their own hive.

"They have very small brains, but they're very intelligent."
VINCENT ALOYO, ON HONEYBEES

Aloyo also devotes class time to the "mind-boggling" life of the honeybee.

"They have very small brains, but they're very intelligent," Aloyo says, explaining that a honeybee will leave the hive at about three weeks old, fly up to a couple of miles away to pollinate the neighborhood, then navigate its way back home.

A follow-up course covering honey harvesting and hive disease control starts in April.

A tip that's buzz-worthy

"Don't wear fuzzy clothing, wool or black around bees," Aloyo advises. "Their natural enemies are black bears and skunks, and you don't want to get mistaken for one of those."

RACHEL VIGODA
letters@metro.us

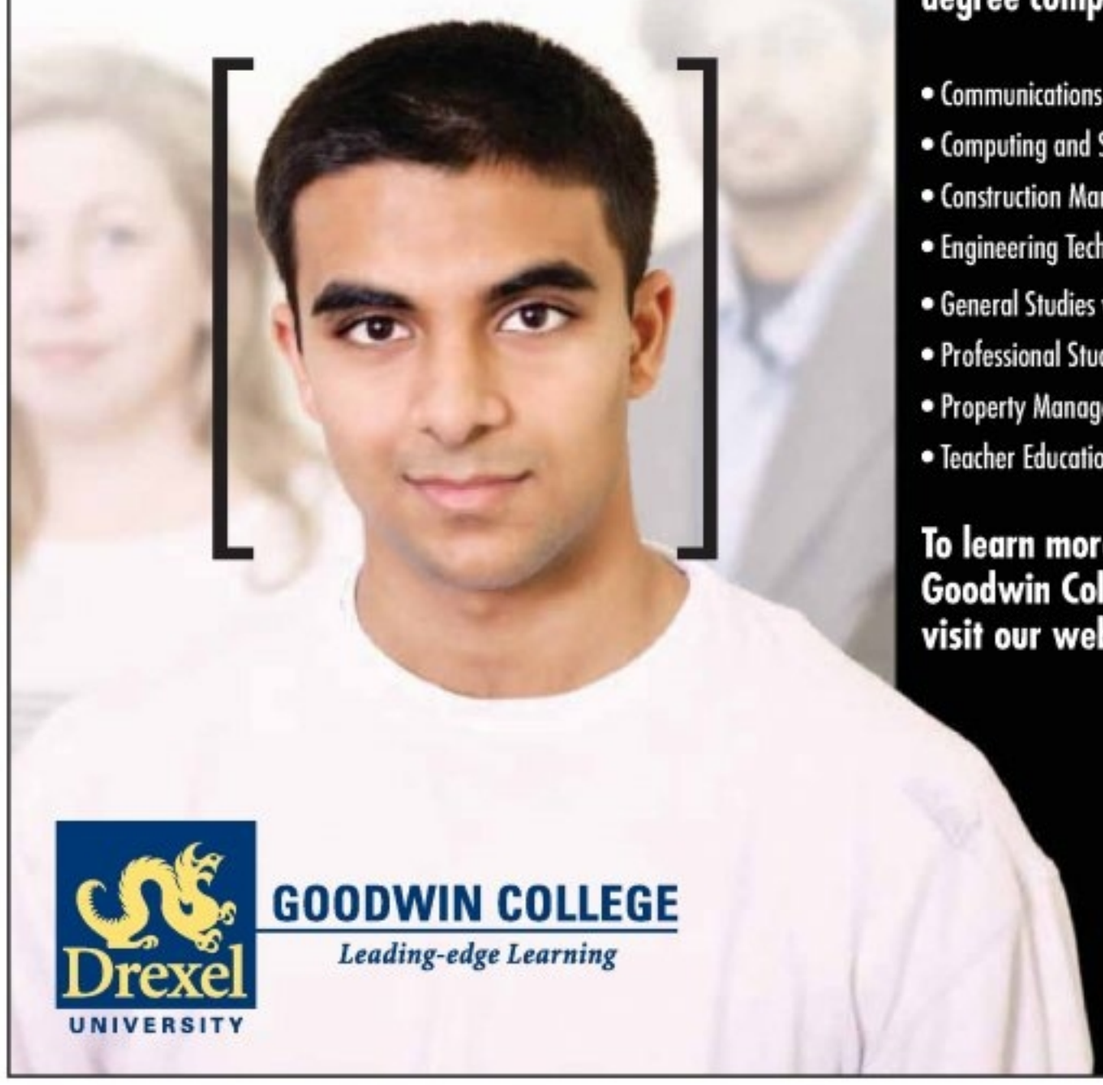
Get outdoors

Temple's noncredit program includes a long list of personal enrichment and professional development classes at its Center City, Ambler and Fort Washington campuses, including several bee-less courses that will still get you outside.

"For gardeners, we have courses on creating a vegetable garden, on getting your garden ready for spring," says program director Rhonda Geyer. "Then we have a variety of courses in the arts: literature and language, interior design, meeting planning, digital photography. It's a wide range."

The one with the bachelor's degree earns 183% more than the one without.*

* www.USNews.com, *The College Solution*, 2010



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LIVE IT.

African-American composers honored at Drexel concert

COURTESY OF DREXEL UNIVERSITY

▶ Drexel's concert band performs at the Kimmel Center on Wednesday evening.

Drexel University's concert band will celebrate Black History Month this week with a concert at the Kimmel Center presenting an evening of music by African-American composers. But Dr. Mike Moss, the band's director, warns audiences — as he does his students — to leave their preconceptions behind.

"I think we're all in the process of discovering how wide the diversity is," Moss says. "There's a piece [Roger Dickerson's 'Essay for Band'] that sounds like Hindemith, written by Branford Marsalis' godfather. Then there's a piece from 1911 that is a reflection of a black man improvising something that sounds like a spiritual."

If you go

Drexel University Concert Band
Wednesday, 8 p.m.
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www.drexel.edu/events

The evening's centerpiece is a pair of commissioned works by Valerie Coleman, a founding member of the groundbreaking chamber music ensemble Imani Winds. But the program ranges over a century of music, representing research that Moss has explored into the work of African-American composers for two decades. Pieces include jazz composer/trumpeter Oliver Nelson's Bach-inspired "Fugue and Bossa" and renowned concert violinist/composer Clarence Cameron White's "Triumphal March." "If you ask even quite accomplished classical music practitioners what African-Americans have done in classical music, there's very little information," says Moss. "Yet there's a large story to be told."

SHAUN BRADY
shaun.brady@metro.us

Recognizing Professor W. E. B. Du Bois

Earlier this month, the trustees of the University of Pennsylvanian bestowed an Honorary Emeritus Professorship of Sociology and Africana Studies on a scholar who worked for Penn in 1896-1897.

That scholar was a black man, W. E. B. Du Bois. He had come to Philadelphia at the invitation of white reformers to conduct a study of the black population of Philadelphia's Seventh Ward. "The Philadelphia Negro" became the basis for Du Bois' "Souls of Black Folk," a landmark work in the then-new field of sociology.

Du Bois was paid by Penn as an instructor, which was unusual at a time. His welcome wasn't completely warm — he was never given an office on campus, for instance.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ W.E.B. Du Bois

The honorary professorship was part of a daylong conference at Penn celebrating Du Bois. "This conference is to celebrate the opportunity that the university seized upon to use that genius, but also to go back and say we can now do more than we did," said Tukufu Zuberi, professor of sociology and the Lasry Family Professor of Race Relations. "We understand that the times were different then. The consideration of an African-American as being a full human being is relatively new in the context of the university." ● **JUDY WEIGHTMAN**

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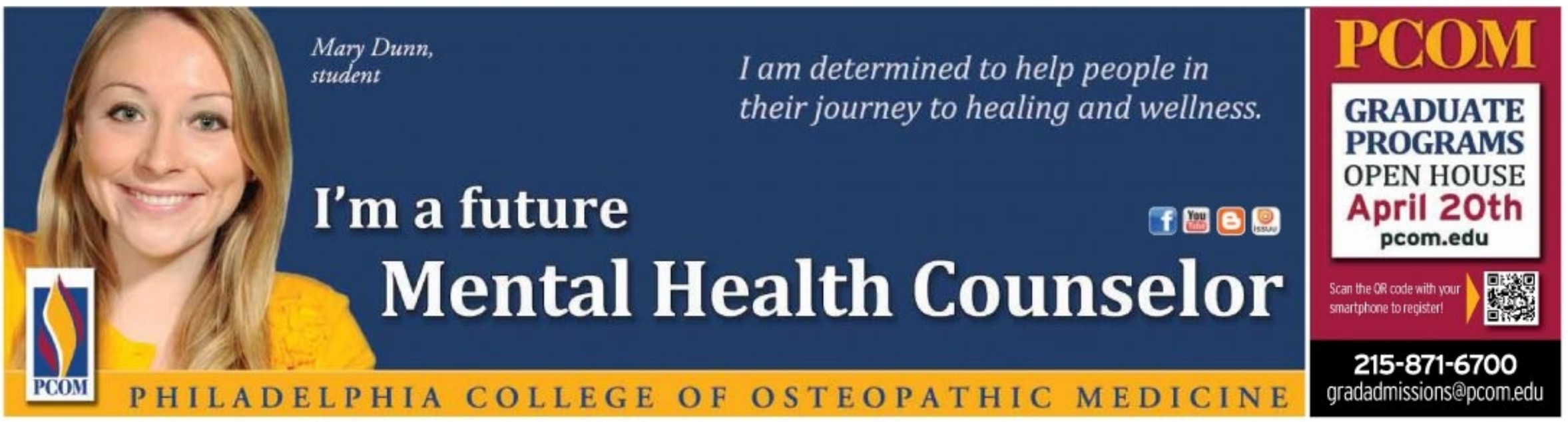

myentertainment

THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Olivia Wilde is feeling appreciated, Jason Alexander has weird tastes, Victoria Beckham is shopping and Conan O'Brien is having trouble with puns.

@oliviawilde
Nothing makes a girl feel special like a homeless man screaming "now those some hips!" as she walk by.

@IJasonAlexander
For me, a great day is defined by whether 7/11 has the blueberry coffee. Today is a great day.

@victoriabeckham
Amazing! baby knee pads for when babies start crawling!!

@ConanOBrien
Just saw a Jeremy Lin jersey on sale for $300. These prices are Jeremy insane! Wait... Did I do that wrong?

Wilde

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

▶ What do you call this stance? Angeling Jolie-ing? Angelegging?

Jolie's Oscar leg launches a thousand memes

It's two days after the Oscars and the world isn't talking about how **Billy Crystal** did as a host (meh!), who won ("The Artist," a lot!), or who lost (**Viola Davis**, you were robbed!). Nope. The world is focused on one thing: **Angelina Jolie**'s leg.

Her awkward red carpet stance, in which she made sure her right leg was constantly on display through the slit in her black, velvet Atelier Versace gown, is a pose that has launched a thousand Internet memes, from a Twitter handle — @AngiesRightLeg — which is nearing 15,000 followers with tweets like, "You have to admit I'm one hell of a leg!" to a Tumblr account entitled "Angelina Jolie'ing," where readers can upload photos of themselves showing off their ashy thighs.

There's no reason for why she stood like that, time and time again. (My theory: Her bony leg was poking out to sniff around for a sandwich.) But perhaps the best mocking of the leg came from "The Descendants" co-writer **Jim Rash**, who hit the stage with **Alexander Payne** and **Nat Faxon** to accept the award for Best Adapted Screenplay. The look was quickly imitated by Faxon, but the scribes insist they weren't mocking the actress. "She's supremely hot," Faxon said backstage, while Rash was quick to explain his actions: "I just saw her pose and I thought, you know what, we have exactly the same legs," the writer. "It was more like, 'Oh, she's standing, great, I'm going to stand like that, too.'"

Rash better watch it. No one mocks Angelina Jolie in front of her face and gets away with it. The last person who probably did that was **Billy Bob Thornton**, and we're pretty sure he's currently working at a Cracker Barrel in Parissapany, N.J.

Stylist: It wasn't a nip slip!

Many eagle-eyed viewers were convinced they caught **Jennifer Lopez** having a wardrobe malfunction while presenting at the Oscars, but her stylist, **Mariel Haenn**, insists there was no nipple-baring. "The dress fit perfectly to her every inch. There were cups built in and there's no chance that there were any, how do you say? 'slips,'" Haenn posted on Twitter. "While the dress did give the illusion of sheer-ness, joke's on everyone who wishes they saw something."

Maybe she had better luck with this number?

Talking points

Jolie and Pitt to work together again

They first fell for each other while making a movie together, so it was just a matter of time before **Brad Pitt** and **Angelina Jolie** teamed up again onscreen. And now the Hollywood power couple is looking for another project. "We're talking about it. We have an idea," Jolie tells E! News, adding that it won't be a "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" sequel — or a comedy at all, most likely. "We don't know how funny we are." In fact, they might not be playing lovers in any way. "You never know what you want to see an actual couple do," says Jolie. "Sometimes it's better if they're not a couple."

Hathaway and Lohan have something in common?

While most might not think so, **Anne Hathaway** insists she can relate to a particularly troubled young starlet. "**Lindsay Lohan** and I have more in common than people think," Hathaway tells the Sun. "We've all done things we shouldn't. I wasted time doing self-destructive things." And exactly what sort of things are we talking about here? "I found you can only dance on so many tabletops," Hathaway says. "I got all that out of my system."

▶ Hathaway

Federline's parenting tips

Kevin Federline is determined to keep his two sons with **Britney Spears** grounded — even if it means working in fast food. "I'll have them working at Micky D's. That's how we had to do it. I worked at a car wash. I worked at a pizza place. Things like that made me," Federline tells Australia's Herald Sun. "Sean and Jayden have missed out on so much of that with me and their mom being so busy all the time. Now we've both agreed that this is it, they are going to be at school and learn what it's like to be part of society as kids."

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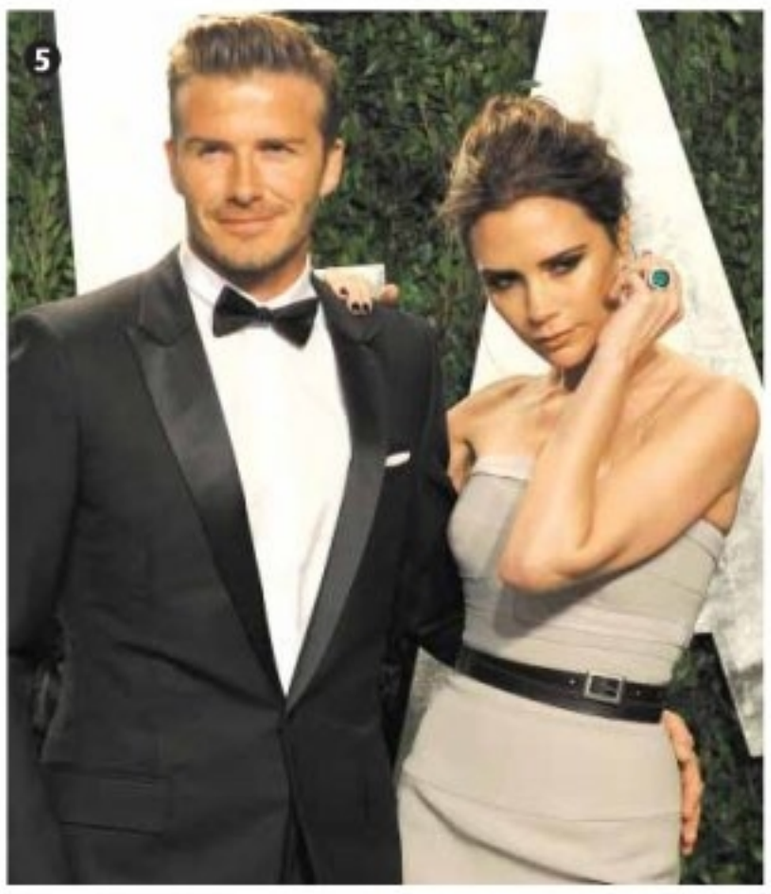

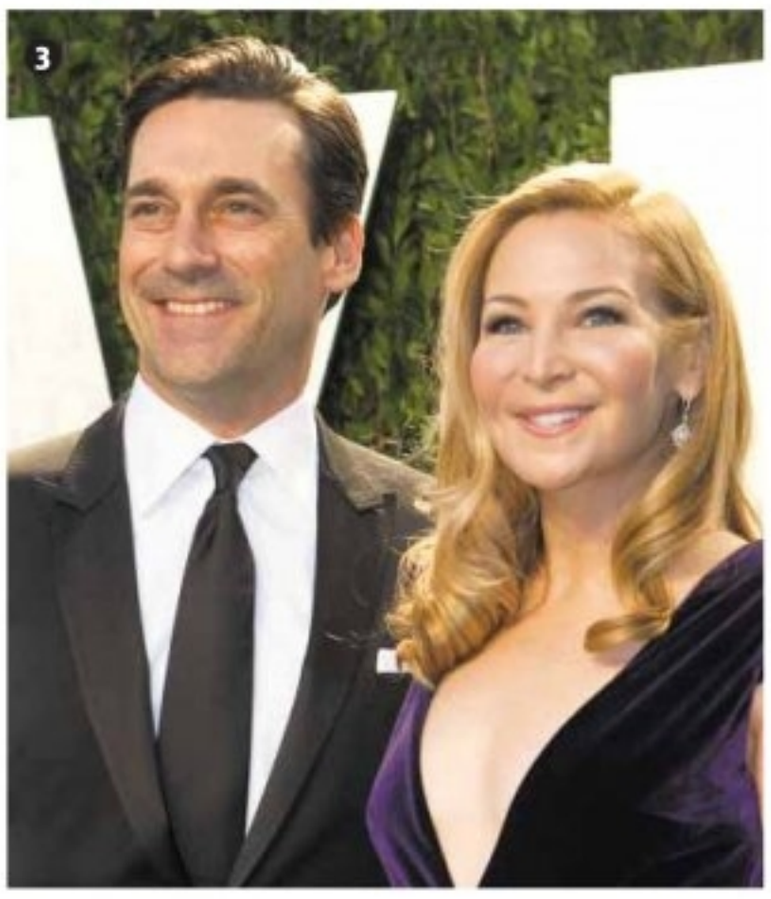

Scenes from the Vanity Fair Oscar party

1. Sisters **Venus** and **Serena Williams** wore Christiane King to the famed after-party, held Sunday night at Sunset Tower in West Hollywood, Calif.

2. "Ready for the Vanity Fair Oscar party!!" **Sofia Vergara** tweeted before arriving in a white, strapless Roberto Cavalli gown.

3. Jon Hamm brought girlfriend **Jennifer Westfeldt** to Hollywood's hottest soiree.

4. New mom **January Jones** stepped out to celebrate Oscar night in a two-toned green and brown ensemble.

5. David Beckham and **Victoria Beckham** arrived arm in arm, with Victoria wearing a strapless gown from her own Victoria Beckham Collection.

6. Of power couple **Katie Holmes** and **Tom Cruise**, Holmes wore an Elie Saab Haute Couture strapless chiffon gown teamed with Chanel heels.

7. Kelly Ripa and **Mark Consuelos** showed that sometimes, the perfect accessory is each other.

1: JORDAN STRAUSS/WIREIMAGE
2,3: ADRIAN SANCHEZ GONZALEZ/AFP/GETTY IMAGES
4,5,6: MARK SULLIVAN/WIREIMAGE
7: JORDAN STRAUSS/WIREIMAGE

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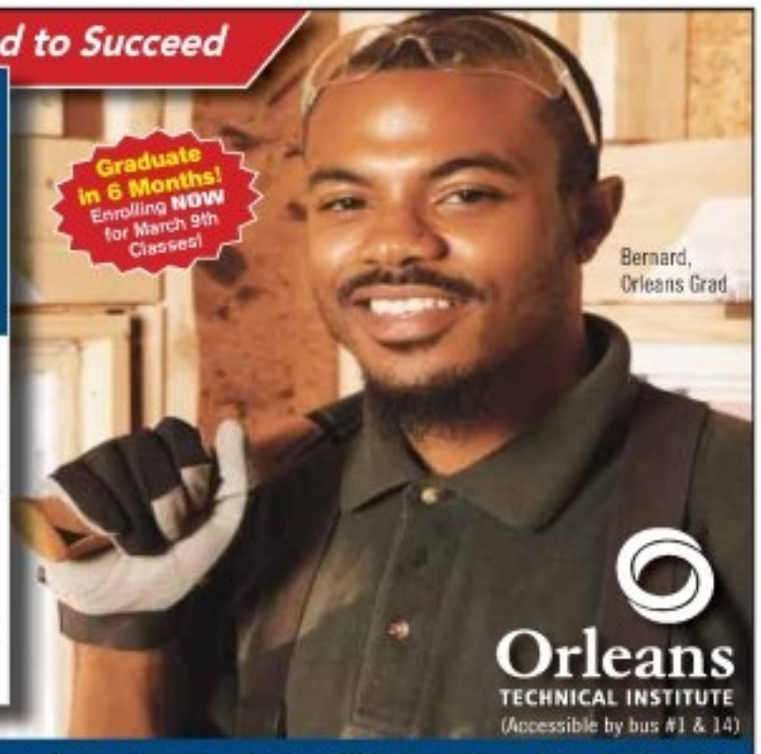

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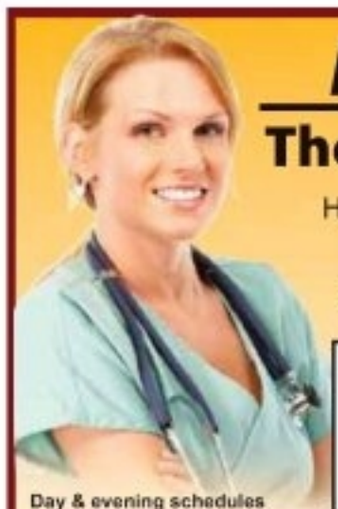

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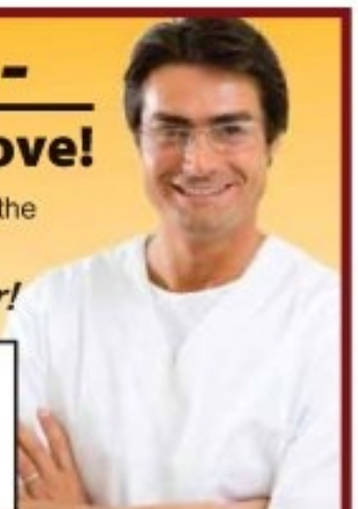

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TV watch list

▶ Crosby (Dax Shepard) and Jasmine (Joy Bryant) tie the knot on "Parenthood."

CHRIS HASTON/NBC

'Parenthood'

DRAMA. It's TV wedding season! The Bravermans celebrate the long-awaited marriage of Crosby and Jasmine while the fate of other partnerships — such as Sarah and Mark's relationship or Crosby and Adam's stake in The Luncheonette — isn't so clear. **Season finale, 10 p.m., NBC**

'Cougar Town'

COMEDY. And in other wedding plots, Jules turns into a bridezilla while planning her nuptials. **8:30 p.m., ABC**

AMBER RAY

For Nathan there are more sides to every

Author Nathan Englander argues that fiction is truer than truth. Then it, too, must have consequences. In his compelling short story collection, "What We Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank," characters make controversial judgments that often defy social, moral and legal contracts. Whether taking control of their own lives or taking justice into their own hands, his characters' loaded choices ask us to see just how gray our world is. Englander's bittersweet tales of forgiving — and not forgiving — but never forgetting open a dialogue. We start one with him.

There's something so raw about your stories that seemingly only first-hand knowledge can invoke. What inspired "Free Fruit for Young Widows" and "Sister Hills," both which take place far from where you live?

My aesthetic is really simple — my obligation is to the story. I don't sound shy but what I am is private, and distant worlds let me be as intimate and raw as I need to be. I was at a conference with the Israeli writer Etgar Keret and he told me a personal story about his father who was a Warsaw Ghetto survivor. I asked him, "Can I address your story as a story?" And he said: "Take it, it's yours." I wanted to do it justice [in "Free Fruit for Young Widows"]. And "Sister Hills"? I'm always thinking about Israel. I wanted to write the whole history of the West Bank

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Englander, than two short story

"When you put something out into the world with your name of it, you should want to stand by it for the rest of your life." ENGLANDER

compressed into a short story. More than anything I've ever written, it was so overwhelming that I didn't even know what I had. You have to have respect for the work you're doing. It's not about polemics or what I feel about politics, it's about obligations to the story.

A common thread in the stories is the boiling point: What causes us to break down and expose our repressed emotions? Do you experience these points in your writing process?

"Sister Hills" was the last story in the book and the pressure was on. I was sitting there all day Friday, all day Saturday, all day Sunday. Then it was Monday night and I'd put in one of those 12-hour days where you're just writing up to a new part, then not engaging and then you just know. I was suddenly writing the rest of the story. That sums up the pivot process. I built the whole world, so there's nobody else who could know how it works but me. How can I know on Monday what I didn't know on Friday? Those pivot points are built into the work, but I think they're built into life.

There's an underlying tenderness in your stories. Is there a limit to compassion?

[Writing fiction] is a moral act. How can you write a story that's universal if you don't understand what good and what evil means? I'm haunted that there's no black-and-white world and that there's so much injustice. I always get in trouble when people play that game, "Can you imagine that"? Because I can imagine anything. The point of writing is exploring these questions. I would hope there's no limit to compassion, but if you want me to explore otherwise, I will list scenarios. It's case-by-case, moment-by-moment.

GINA ANGELOTTI
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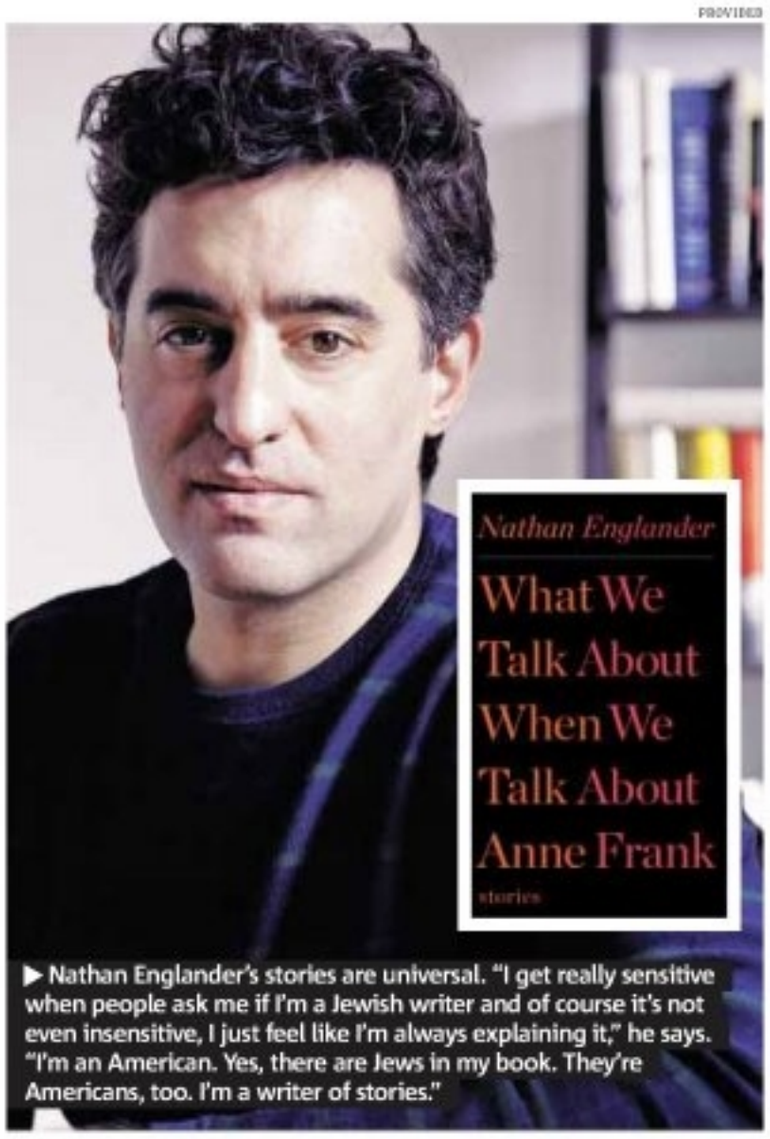

▶ Nathan Englander's stories are universal. "I get really sensitive when people ask me if I'm a Jewish writer and of course it's not even insensitive, I just feel like I'm always explaining it," he says. "I'm an American. Yes, there are Jews in my book. They're Americans, too. I'm a writer of stories."

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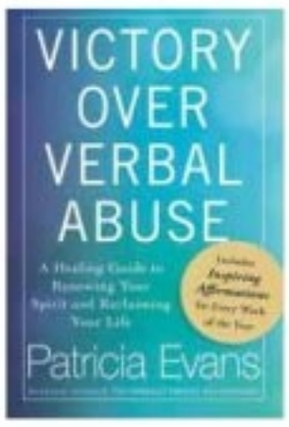
How to help when your child is bullied

Notice a change in your kid's behavior? Then there might be something going on How to get involved

Every parent dreads the thought that his or her child is being bullied, but not every parent understands what to do or even how to reach out to a child to find out. First, argues Patricia Evans, author of "Victory Over Verbal Abuse: A Healing Guide to Renewing Your Spirit and Reclaiming Your Life," you need to watch for the warning signs.

"What you need to do is observe your children," Evans says. She advises that you watch your children for behavior that seems out of the ordinary: If they're more depressed lately, if they don't want to go to school or if they're closing their Facebook page when you walk by, for example.



When you decide to broach the subject, do so gently. Evans suggested that parents talk "after dinner, [and] just bring it up. 'Do you notice any kids at school being bullied? Has anybody ever tried to put you down or call you names at school? Is there anything like that going on?' Bring it out in the open," she says.

If you notice the taunting taking a turn for the worse, don't just sit back and assume that kids will be kids. Evans recommends getting involved.

"Talk to teachers," advises Evans. "Talk to the principal. [See if they can] have a 'no bullying, zero tolerance for bullying at this school' [policy]. You really have to have the administration involved and the kids have to be in student counseling. You can't just shame them in front of the school."

BASIKASTOCK

▶ Step in if your child is being bullied, recommends expert Patricia Evans.

Your child might be embarrassed to learn you're taking the issue up with the school, but there are ways to make sure he or she is protected. Evans recommends asking for confidentiality when doing so, and giving the following script to your child: "There are some children with problems at your school, so I am going to talk to people who can establish a plan to help stop the bullying."

Evans also suggests that children know how to defend themselves — nonviolently — when facing a bully.

She says to tell your kids: "If someone says something mean to you, look them in the eye — you might even point your finger at them — [and say] 'That's what YOU say.'"

Kids, she adds, should also know where to turn for help. "[Have them] think of five people that they could go to if they were being bullied."

KIRSTY STEWART
letters@metro.us

The Internet and bullying

The advent of technology has led to a new kind of bullying: abuse over the Web, on sites like Facebook, MySpace and Twitter.

Evans advises kids to "keep your social media private" and "report abuse." And let your statuses do the talking: "Keep a statement on your Facebook page: When people talk about people behind their back, they are usually lying."

A bully's mind

For bullies to become bullies, they have most likely experienced bullying at home from an older sibling or even a parent.

"People who bully are very disconnected inside," Evans says. "They don't feel centered, they don't feel OK and they don't feel like they can make friends."

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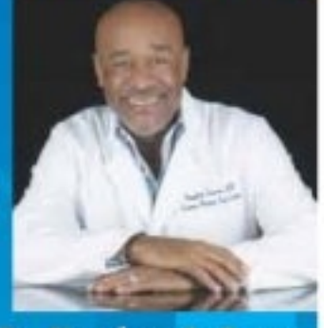
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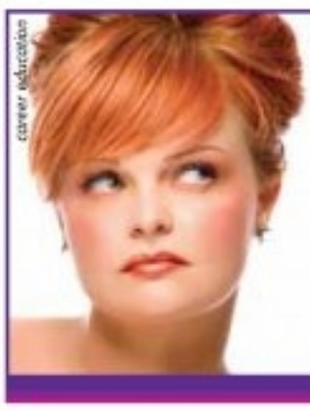
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Letters

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Re: 'New War?' Debate rages on

Tunisia, Egypt and Libya saw successful government turnovers (including the ousting of Gaddafi which Reagan's administration couldn't accomplish) without the deaths of U.S. military. Does Mr. Stark suggest another Iraq-type invasion in Syria?
KATHY KOURIAN, VIA E-MAIL

No one is standing idly by while the Assad regime is murdering their own citizens. The U.N. attempt to stop the slaughter was shut down by China and Russia, both voting members of the Security Council. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is doing what she can to stop the madness. His actions have made him persona non grata to most nations in the Middle East, some of whom are quietly arming the rebels. **RENEE GREEN, VIA E-MAIL**

Re: 'Like Yelp, but for teachers'

Contrary to Frederick Bedell's opinion, parents do not need to know who are the "good" or "bad" teachers in public education because this will lead to a nightmare for the administration. In addition, what the media does not report is the methodology by which data was collected to rate teachers. I urge your readers to research this and discover for themselves how useless and incorrect it is. **MARISA MILITELLO, VIA E-MAIL**

"Well, the Oscars did it. They named for Best Picture a movie that is silent and also in black and white."

Will more directors want to create more silent films? I've been hoping for this for a while. If done right, silent films are terrific — a true art form.
FRANK GIALLOMBARD, VIA E-MAIL

Most of the People v. Citizens United

Polls show that roughly 80 percent of Americans want Citizens United overturned. Money is not speech. Corporations are not people. Justice Scalia recently said, "If the system seems crazy to you don't blame it on the court." Well, I do blame it on the Supreme Court (or five of the nine members). Its decision in the Citizens United case two years ago is destroying our democracy.
DEVYN DRAKE, VIA E-MAIL

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Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Be careful not to let pessimistic thinking dominate your optimistic viewpoint.
♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Companions might have a difficult time getting a handle on your mood. In some instances you'll be extremely kind, while other times the Scrooge in you might come to the fore.
♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Be careful what you say and to whom. Someone might quote your comments out of context and hurt both of you.
♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** If you're not careful, there is a good chance that you'll be intimidated by your own imagination.
♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Sensing a friend's fragile mood, the timing might not be exactly right to remind him or her about an overdue financial obligation.
♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** When seeking advice concerning a troublesome situation, don't settle for just one person's opinion.
♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** The ideas or suggestions of family might be superior to your thoughts on handling a delicate situation. Don't allow your ego to block your eardrums.
♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** If you're smart, you won't waste a lot of time looking for easy outs.
♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** An arrangement that you're involved in might be of dubious value, so don't rely on another. You will be better off overcoming the obstacles yourself.
♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** When it comes to serving your own self-interest, you're likely to be extremely productive, but if you are required to help out another, your faculties could suddenly shut down.
♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Think before investing in a situation about which you know little to nothing.
♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** If there isn't something in it for you, you're apt to be reluctant to extend yourself in any way.
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33 Southfork surname
35 Wild cat
36 Dernier __
37 Sugary drink
38 Beauty pack
39 Strauss of denim fame
41 Philosophy
43 Vaulted recess
44 Churchill successor
45 Kiel conjunction
46 Roughed up
48 NFL periods
50 Cared
51 Loyola's order
54 LaBelle or LuPone
55 Alluring thing
57 Mass of clouds
61 Confirm
62 Erik the composer
63 Biology topic
64 Financial page org.
65 Stair part
66 Wagner's earth goddess

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8 Fleur-de-__
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11 Lotion ingredient
12 Kind of squad
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19 ATV feature
21 NASA counterpart
23 Equipped
24 Get there
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26 Bike
27 Put up clapboards
29 Wrinkle up
30 Tickled
31 Filled the hold
34 Alerts
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43 Loud enough
47 Picnic intruder
49 Personal quirk
50 Obsession
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56 Damage
58 Tire filler
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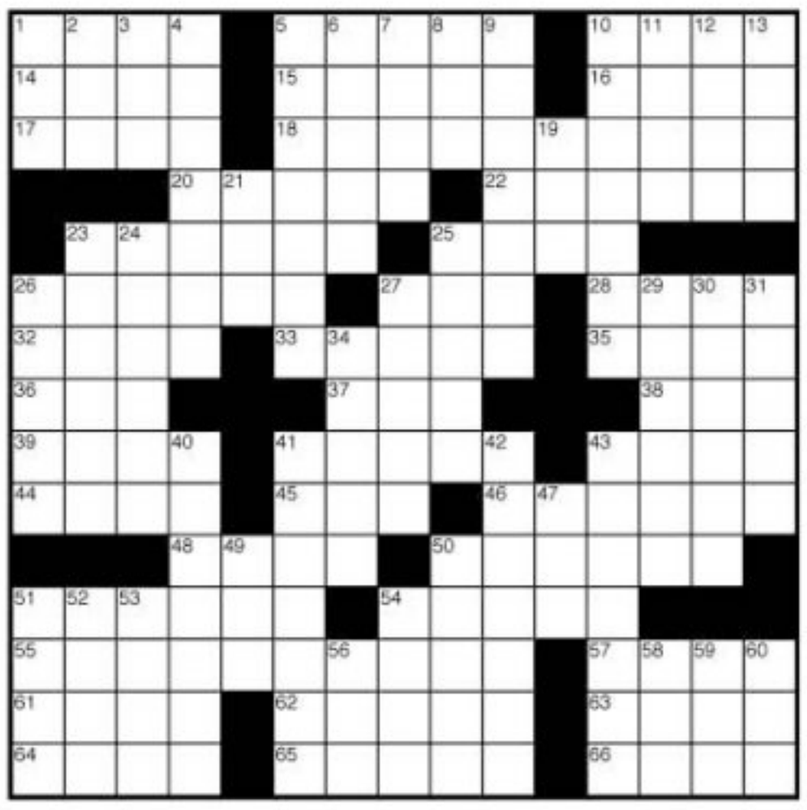
60 Big green parrot



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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

■	R	E	D	■	W	O	R	S	T	■	P	U	N	T
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B	E	N	E	■	T	O	O	N	S	■	O	N	O	■

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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heart health

Women face higher risk, less pain in heart attacks: Study

Women who are hospitalized for a heart attack are less likely to experience chest pain and are more likely to die than men the same age, researchers said.

The analysis published in the Journal of the American Medical Association is the largest to examine the interplay among gender, age and chest pain when it comes to death from heart disease, the leading killer worldwide.

Chest pain is the hallmark symptom of a heart attack, according to researchers who suggested its absence might help explain women's increased risk.

The study examined the records of 1.1 million Americans from 1994 to 2006 in the National Registry of Myocardial Infarction, the largest database of heart attack patients in the world. Forty-two percent of women reported no chest pain when they were hospitalized for a heart attack, known medically as a myocardial infarction, compared with 30.7 percent of men. Almost 15 percent of the women died, compared with 10 percent of men.

"Our data suggest that the absence of chest pain is associated with increased mortality, especially among younger women," said the researchers, led by John Canto, from the Watson Clinic and Lakeland Regional Medical Center. "Patients without chest pain and discomfort tend to present later, are treated less aggressively and have almost twice the short-term mortality."

The excess risk of dying in the hospital for women who weren't experiencing chest pain decreased with age, as the oldest women were less likely to die than men the same age who also weren't suffering the telltale signs of a heart attack.

BLOOMBERG

First symptoms of heart attacks

More than 1 million Americans suffer heart attacks each year, and half die as a result, according to the National Institutes of Health. The report didn't determine what other symptoms heart attack patients were having that led them to the hospital, the researchers said. Previous studies show women in particular may experience pain in the upper back or neck, indigestion, nausea, extreme fatigue and shortness of breath.

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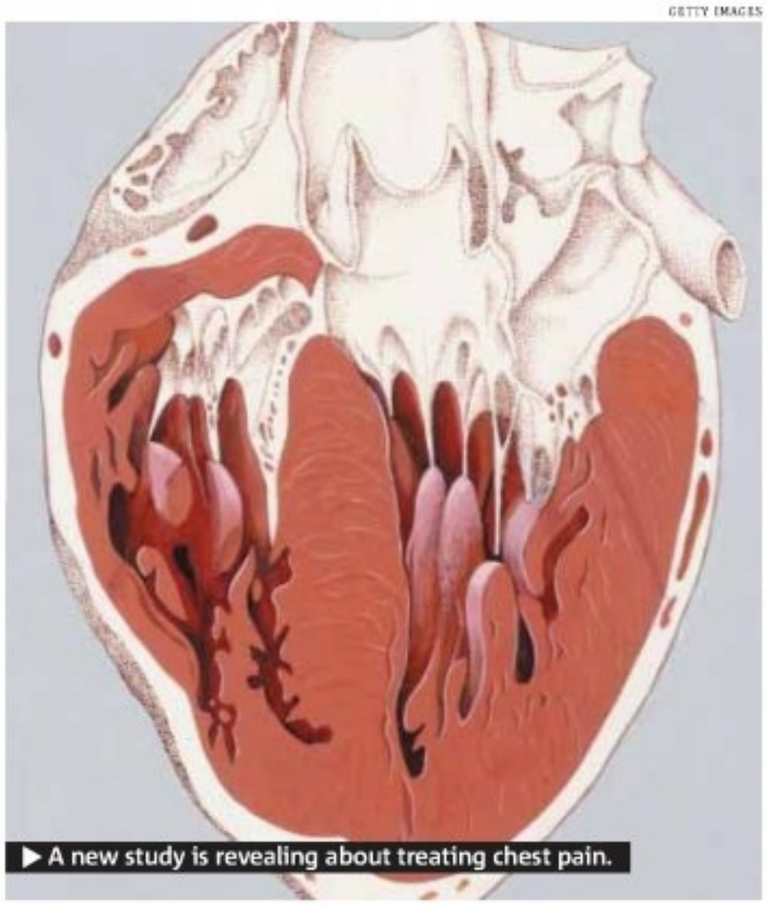

▶ A new study is revealing about treating chest pain.

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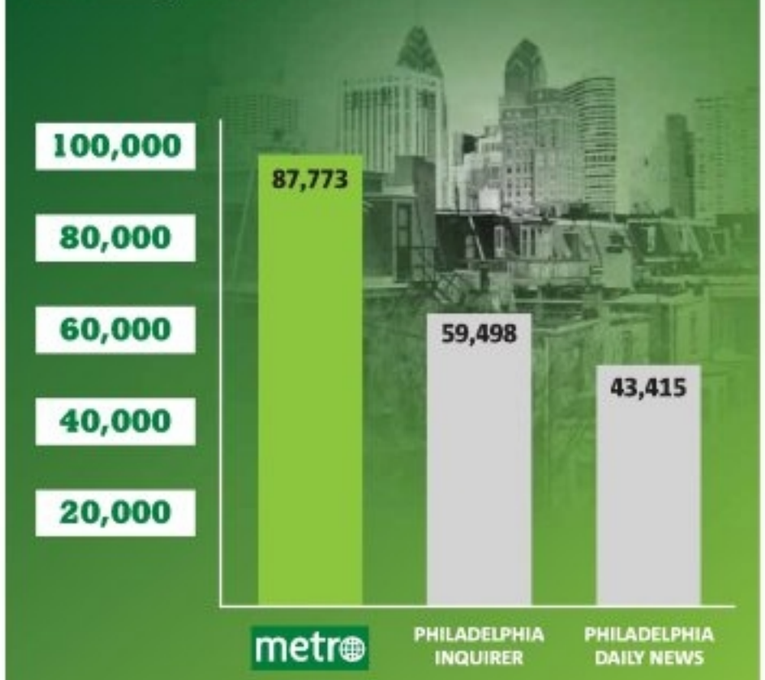

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heart health

All 'bad,' links between heart disease, strokes

While "bad" cholesterol is infamous for its link to heart disease, some lesser-known measures of blood fat may be more important in stroke risk, a new study suggests.

The specific culprits include blood fats called triglycerides, as well as the size and number of certain cholesterol "particles" in the blood. Researchers say they may be better predictors of stroke risk than the traditional LDL number.

The study, reported in the journal Stroke, focused on 774 middle-aged and older U.S. women who suffered a stroke over about eight years. Each was compared with another stroke-free woman of the same age and race. Overall, the one-quarter of women with the highest triglycerides at the outset were 56 percent more likely to suffer a stroke than the one-quarter with the lowest triglycerides. That doesn't prove that the triglycerides are to blame. But the link held even when researchers accounted for other stroke risk factors, like high blood pressure and diabetes.

▶ Trans fat is a "bad" fat.

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And high triglycerides are already considered a risk factor for stroke by groups like the American Heart Association. "Studies such as ours really underscore the importance of triglycerides," said lead researcher Dr. Jeffrey S. Berger, of New York University Medical Center.

According to the AHA, triglyceride levels of 150 to 199 milligrams per deciliter (mg/dL) are "borderline high," while levels of 200 and up are considered "high." But while triglycerides were linked to strokes in this study, low-density lipoprotein — that is, "bad" LDL cholesterol — was not. Instead, more-specific measures of blood fats were. **REUTERS**

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flights

Tips for staying healthy in flight

Thanks to crowded flights with recycled air, catching a cold or other virus is a common post-flight fate — especially now during flu season Here are some simple tips to help you survive unscathed

Lather, rinse, repeat

This may seem obvious, but it bears a reminder: Wash your hands regularly. To do it effectively, experts recommend scrubbing your hands with soap, under warm running water, for at least 20 seconds. But in a pinch, a hand sanitizer will do. Plus, it's nice to have a quick-clean option after touching surfaces like sticky arm rests and tray tables.

Keep moving

Long-haul flights can do a number on the body, causing cramps, muscle pain and neck strain. Taking periodic walks up and down the aisle is one remedy, but there are other alternatives, like yoga poses. A sun salutation in the aisle may not be appreciated, so try these less space-consuming moves. Seated twist: Place one hand on the opposite knee and twist your torso toward that hand. Hold for 30 seconds, then switch. Hip stretch: Cross one leg over the other and lean forward, folding over your legs. Hold, then switch legs and repeat.

Stay hydrated

While flying, it's best to avoid drinks that will dehydrate you. The list includes all of our favorite vices, from alcoholic beverages to caffeinated sodas and coffee. Try drinking water or juice instead, and don't rely on the airline to provide enough during your flight. It's always a good idea to bring a water bottle with you, filling it up at a water fountain before you board the plane. This alternative is better than buying bottled water at the airport — not only for environmental reasons, but because you'll want to stay hydrated on your trip too, whether you're spending time on the beach or gallivanting around a big city.

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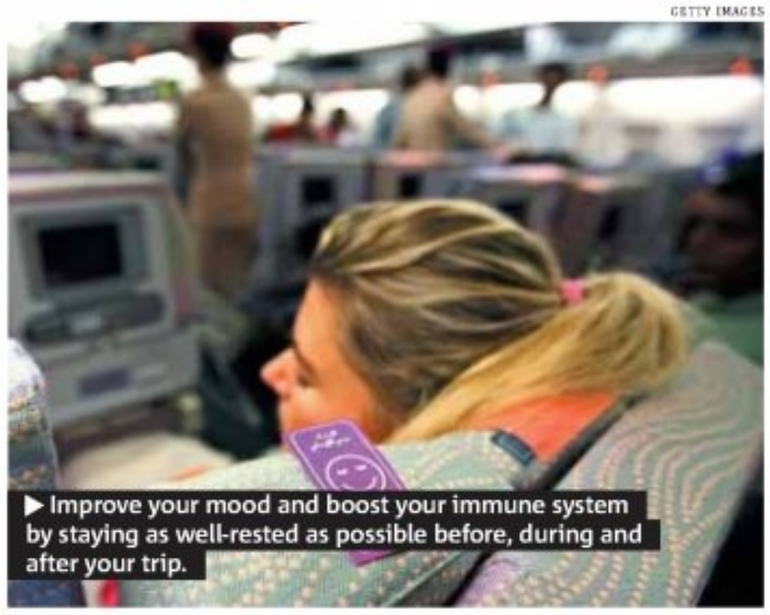

▶ Improve your mood and boost your immune system by staying as well-rested as possible before, during and after your trip.

Get rest

Improve your mood and boost your immune system by staying as well-rested as possible before, during and after your trip. To help aid in-flight sleep, pack your own travel pillow and blanket. A great set of noise-cancelling headphones and an eye-pillow are also recommended. And if all else fails, a glass of warm milk is always an option.

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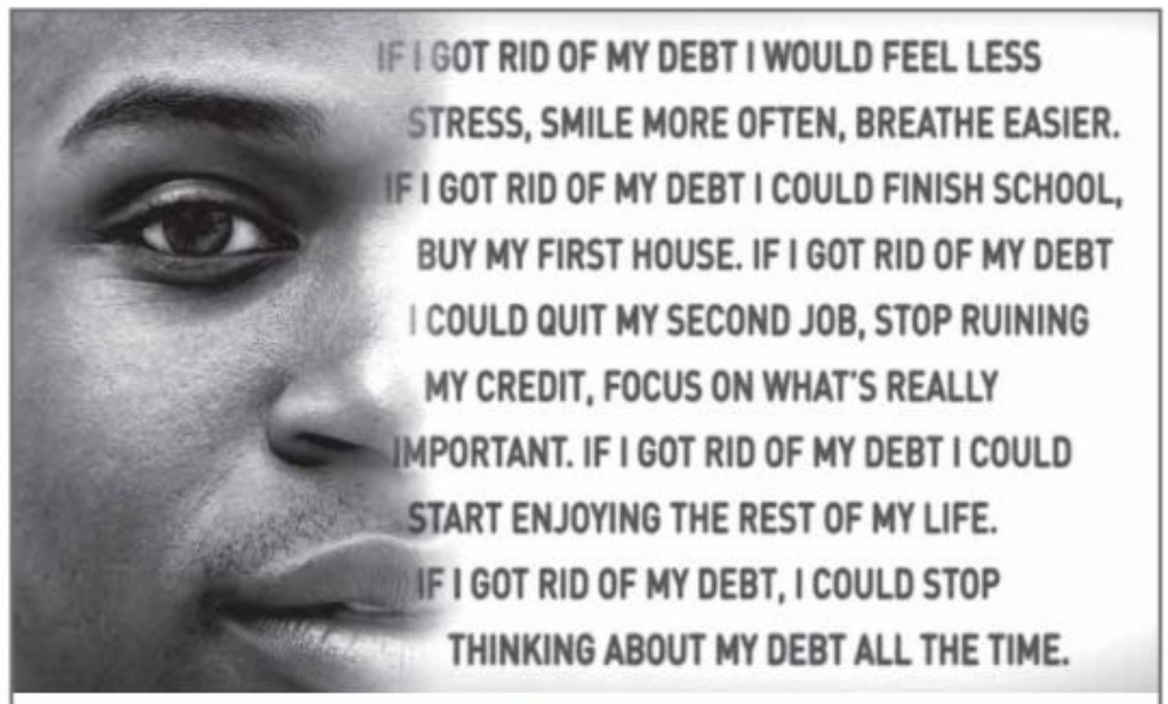
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Opinion

ANGELO CATALDI

THE VOICE OF THE PHILLY SPORTS FAN

HARD-LEE APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

Maybe it's just me. Maybe I'm the only one who has fallen out of love with Cliff Lee. But I have, in a big way, ever since the Phillies' ace pitcher blew the season last October in Game 2 of the playoffs.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages. Opposing viewpoints are welcome. Send submissions to letters@metro.us.

When I see Cliff Lee in Clearwater this spring, I no longer find myself recalling the amazing behind-the-back stab in the 2009 World Series, or the jubilant news conference last winter that signified his shocking return to Philadelphia. All I see now are line drives raining all over Citizens Bank Park, a 4-0 lead draining away, and a certain Phillies championship drowning in his spectacular failure.

It's not just that Lee had a bad moment in his otherwise brilliant career. If that were all it is, I could recover — eventually — from the impact of that historic collapse. But this is a case of style as much as substance. Watching Lee's tone-deaf approach to communicating with the fans has left me almost as bitter and upset as his meltdown in that Game 2.

Quoted

I don't root for players who come up small in big moments and shrug it off.

Last week, in an interview that he approached like a trip to the dentist chair, Lee said it took him "a little while" to get over the disappointment of his final appearance in 2011. A little while? How much time is that? A week? A month? As someone who speaks every day with Phillies fans, I can say with conviction that the fans haven't yet overcome that disaster.

Lee was asked to explain how a player as pressure-tested as he is could fail to hold that lead. He responded by whining about obscure players like David Freese of St. Louis rising to the occasion, followed by some philosophical mumbo-jumbo about how the hot playoff team sometimes trumps great pitching.

With his trademark shrug, Lee then uttered two words that hurt every bit as much as a Cardinal line drive with the bases loaded.

"That's baseball," he said.

Oh, really? An entire season, 102 wins, the best starting rotation in Phillies history reduced to two words. Cliff Lee's special place in Philadelphia sports is gone, at least to me. The anger of his trade to Seattle the same day the Phils acquired Roy Halladay? Gone. The joy of his decision to spurn the hated Yankees and come back here as a free agent? Gone. It's all gone.

When Lee pitches this season, I'll still be rooting just as hard as I ever did because time is running out on this fabulous era, and one championship isn't enough. But I won't be rooting for Lee himself. I don't root for players who come up small in big moments and then shrug it off.

And if he doesn't like my new attitude, I've got two words for him: That's baseball.

*– **Angelo Cataldi** is the host of 94 WIP's Morning Show, which airs weekdays 5:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.*

No fourth gear?

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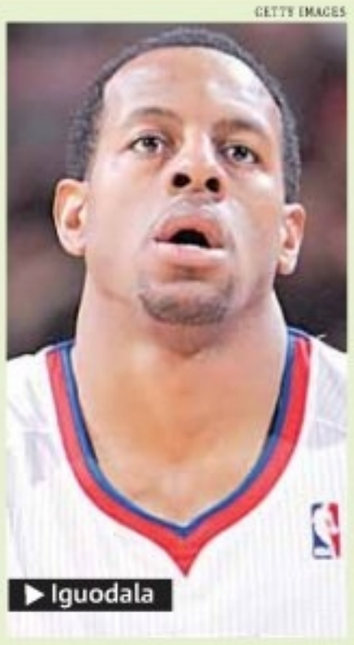

▶ Iguodala

When the Sixers resume play tonight in Detroit, the player they can rely on least also happens to be their only All-Star, Andre Iguodala.

Fans who compare Iguodala's choking in the clutch to Donovan McNabb are being unfair — to McNabb.

I am about to present to you a statistic so damaging that the few remaining Iguodala fans don't want to you see it. Stories are being written and broadcasters are offering lectures to counteract it, all the while never referencing it. Here it is: In the past seven games, Iguodala has contributed one field goal in the fourth quarter.

That's right. In 84 minutes, a man earning $13.5 million has scored one basket when the game was on the line. The fact that he has shot the ball only 10 times over that span is damning proof that he does not want the responsibility of a star, just the salary. And keep in mind that he has shrunk from the late-game spotlight at a time when Spencer Hawes and Elton Brand have been sidelined.

Last week, former Sixers GM Ed Stefanski said a team with Iguodala as its second star should make the playoffs, and a club with him as the third-best player has a chance at a title. Of course, Stefanski never bothered to explain why he paid Iguodala like a top star, or $80 million over six years.

It's time for all of the apologists to log off their computers and snap off their microphones. Andre Iguodala has one basket in the fourth quarter through the past seven games. No words are going to change that. And no words are going to change him, either.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ No sequel for Donovan McNabb in Philadelphia.

McNabb, the beggar

Fletcher Smith made a call that could have provided one of the most outrageous twists in Philadelphia sports history. You see, Smith represents Donovan McNabb, out of work and desperate for one more chance. Would you believe Smith called the Eagles for employment?

Well, he did. He yanked out his trusty cell phone, ignored all the years of bad passes and bruised egos, and asked if there was any interest in a sequel to the 11-year McNabb era here.

There is no word on whom Smith spoke to. If it was Joe Banner, the call was probably brief. But if Smith reached Andy Reid, is it at least possible that the most loyal man in football gave the idea consideration? The signing of journeyman Trent Edwards last week was hardly a roster coup. Strictly on football terms, McNabb is a better choice.

Of course, McNabb would never allow the decision to be based solely on football, not with his impressive new array of baggage. He has become a morale-sucking presence on every team.

If you think I'm enjoying this latest development in McNabb's spectacular downfall, well, I plead guilty. I'm not right every day — or every column, for that matter. But I was right about Donovan McNabb.

Idle thoughts from Cataldi ...

1 Snap back to reality. Jeremy Lin was 1-for-11 from the field in an abysmal performance against Miami last week. The New York Knicks lost the game, of course, but that wasn't the real story. The real story was that it's finally OK to resume admiring the real stars of the NBA, and not the fake ones.

2 Reunited and it feels so good. Jeff Carter was reunited with his old buddy, Mike Richards, when Columbus traded Carter to the L.A. Kings. There, they are both working again with former Flyers coach John Stevens. Hey, if nothing else, the Kings are getting really good at stockpiling losers, aren't they?

3 Mellow yellow. National League MVP Ryan Braun got off on a technicality when a drug tester kept the star player's urine in his refrigerator over the weekend. I realize there a lot of important issues associated with this story, but all I keep thinking is: Who the heck keeps urine in the fridge?

3

Rank and file

Owls ranked No. 23 in latest basketball poll

Temple men's basketball slipped one spot, down to No. 23, in the most recent AP poll released yesterday. The Owls saw an 11-game winning streak snapped versus St. Joe's this past weekend. Drexel failed to crack the top 25 again, but received 41 votes and rounded out the top 30. Kentucky and Syracuse retained the top two spots. METRO

Ouch!

Bryant breaks nose, concussed

Kobe Bryant sustained a mild concussion and nasal fracture after taking a hard foul in Sunday's All-Star Game.

The Lakers star was bloodied in the game, when Dwyane Wade wrapped him up. Bryant scored 27 points and broke Michael Jordan's record for most points in All-Star history.

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Flyers like team, quiet at deadline

GM confident about direction of Orange and Black
Field calls about JVR, stand pat On to San Jose

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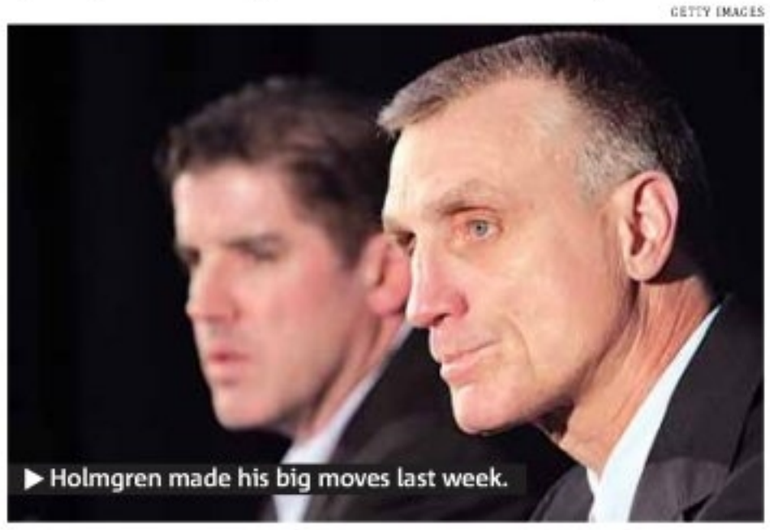

▶ Holmgren made his big moves last week.

Aside from fielding a few exploratory phone calls, the Flyers stood pat at yesterday's NHL trade deadline.

San Jose reportedly offered goaltender Antti Niemi for winger James van Riemsdyk, but the Flyers said no thanks. According to GM Paul Holmgren, the recent additions of big blue-liners Nicklas Grossman (Feb. 16) and Pavel Kubina (Feb. 18) were enough.

"I think we stated all along that anything we do needed to make sense both ways for us and nothing really came up," Holmgren told the team's website. "We made our moves a couple weeks ago and I think adding size and experience on defense that we were looking for with the absence of Chris Pronger for the rest of this year, we felt good with our group." METRO

ON TV TODAY

Flyers at Sharks, 10:30 p.m. (TCN)

Trade tracker

Rick Nash didn't change teams, but here are a few bigger names who did:

- **Nashville acquired** Andrei Kostitsyn from Montreal for two draft picks.
- **Vancouver sent** Cody Hodgson, a Calder Cup Trophy candidate, to Buffalo.
- **San Jose picked up** forwards Daniel Winnik and TJ Galiardi from Colorado.

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Bubble trouble: St. Joe's back in NCAA discussion

Big win over Temple has Hawks among last four in Close out regular season tomorrow at St. Bonaventure Focused on Atlantic 10 tourney

A riveting 82-72 victory over Temple last Saturday at Hagan Arena propelled Saint Joseph's to its 19th win this season.

It gave the Hawks a share of the Big 5 title. It snapped a frustrating, 10-game losing streak against the Owls.

Most importantly, it pushed St. Joe's back into the NCAA tournament picture. At 19-11 overall and 9-6 in the Atlantic 10 — with one more regular-season game looming tomorrow at St. Bonaventure — the Hawks are among the last four teams in the Big Dance, according to ESPN bracketologist Joe Lunardi.

St. Joe's last advanced to the NCAAs in 2008, when it lost to Oklahoma in the first round. After a couple of frustrating seasons, the Hawks are back in the postseason discussion. Still, the Hawks are focused solely on their next game and then the Atlantic 10 tournament in Atlantic City.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Martelli has the Hawks focused on the Atlantic 10.

"We don't really acknowledge it [the NCAA tournament]," St. Joe's coach Phil Martelli said. "We focus everything on the Atlantic 10. I think we're raising a generation of basketball players that don't really pay attention to it. I think my guys know more about the NBA Celebrity All-Star Game."

After last Wednesday's home loss to Richmond, Martelli said he quizzed his players about the postseason. They were looking ahead to Temple, nothing more.

"You'd have a better chance of discussing professional basketball than you would of saying, 'How's Murray State playing? How do they play?'" Martelli said.

How do the Hawks play? Well, they have won four of their last five and six of eight. They are back on the NCAA bubble. No question.

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▶ Schmidt is the greatest Phillie of all time.

Schmidt shows up at camp, offered an expanded role

If you were struggling at the plate, it stands to reason you would put in a call to one of the club's greatest hitters.

Hall of Famer Mike Schmidt made his annual visit to Phillies camp yesterday and revealed that he's sticking around longer than usual. Skipper Charlie Manuel has asked Schmidt to be more active at spring training. In the past, he has stayed for about a week. This spring, he might stay until the end of March.

"A guy like me is only good if there are ears that want to listen," Schmidt told reporters. "Can you change a guy's approach? Yeah, you can get a guy to think about his role and profession. You can get him to think about being great at it and get him to understand it takes applying your mind more to your craft."

548
Career home runs for Schmidt, which ranks 15th on MLB's all-time list and No. 1 in Phils franchise history.

Schmidt also had a bevy of compliments for this crop of Phillies. He called the franchise's current run the "strongest baseball era in Phillies history."

"The environment around Phillies baseball right now, I don't see how it could have ever been better," he said.

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Business Opportunities

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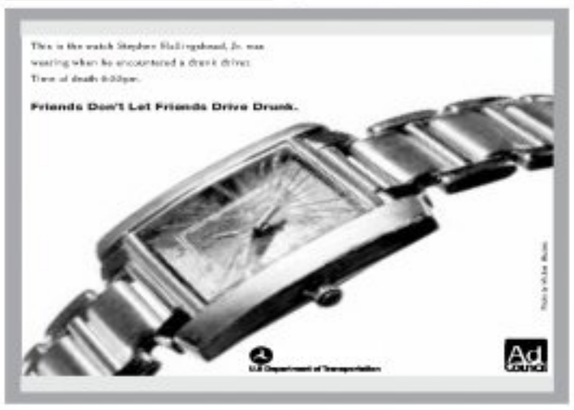

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